

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KINGST 01859 301528Z

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ACTION ARA-20

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PRS-01 USIE-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02

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FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4830

UNCLAS KINGSTON 1859

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIN, EMIN

SUBJ: BAUXITE SITREP 69: MANLEY REAFFIRMS GOJ AIMS TOWARD
BAUXITE COMPANIES

REF: KINGSTON 1710

1. IN A PASSIONATE FINALE TO A MORE THAN SIX HOUR BUDGET SPEECH, MANLEY CALLED ON BAUXITE COMPANIES TO PROVIDE AN EXAMPLE TO THE WORLD OF HOW A MULTINATIONAL CORPORATION COULD WORK IN PARTNERSHIP WITH A PROUD SMALL DEVELOPING NATION. MANLEY SAID THE "REVENUE ISSUE WAS OVER AND DONE WITH" AND THE NEW LEGISLATION WOULD BE PASSED. COMPETITIVE PRICE WAS NOT AN ISSUE BECAUSE THE PRICES OF COMPETITIVE PRODUCTS HAD ESCALATED FAR MORE THAN ALUMINUM PRICES. EVEN IF THE COMPANIES PASSED ON ALL OF THE NEW TAXES, IT WOULD RESULT IN A PRICE INCREASE OF ONLY 5 PERCENT WHICH DID NOT COMPARE WITH THE 200 PERCENT INCREASE IN THE PRICE OF WHEAT, AND "JAMAICA WAS GOING TO GET ITS FAIR SHARE ON BAUXITE."

2. THE GOJ WOULD OWN THE BAUXITE LAND AND PAY A FAIR PRICE FOR IT, AND THE RESERVES NOT GOING TO BE UTILIZED BY THE COMPANIES WOULD REVERT TO THE GOJ. MANLEY CALLED FOR A NEW PARTNERSHIP
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PAGE 02 KINGST 01859 301528Z

BETWEEN THE COMPANIES AND JAMAICA AND SAID HE HOPED FOR AN

EXPANSION OF THE INDUSTRY. HOWEVER ANY EXPANSION WOULD BE ON THE BASIS OF MAJORITY PARTNERSHIP BY THE GOJ. MANLEY SAID RECENT EVENTS WERE A TURNING POINT IN JAMAICA'S HISTORY AND MADE A PASSIONATE APPEAL TO THE COMPANIES "TO SHARE IN A FUTURE OF DYNAMIC PARTNERSHIP."

3. CALLING ON THE THIRD WORLD TO UNITE ECONOMICALLY, MANLEY SAID THE TURNING POINTS IN HIS FORMATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL BAUXITE ASSOCIATION WERE THE CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN SEKOU TORRE, BURNHAM AND HIMSELF AND THOSE BETWEEN WITLAM AND HIMSELF AT THE COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF GOVT MEETING IN OTTAWA. HE HAD SENT DUDLEY THOMPSON ABROAD TO REPRESENT HIM BECAUSE DUDLEY "KNOW MY MIND" AND IS "RESPECTED IN LA AND AFRICA," AND THE REASON HE CAN GO ON THESE LONG MISSIONS IS PRECISELY BECAUSE HE DOESN'T HAVE A CONSTITUENCY.

4. ALTHOUGH MANLEY MADE IT CLEAR THAT BAUXITE OPERATIONS WERE TO BE ON GOJ TERMS, HE MADE IT EQUALLY EVIDENT THAT THE GOJ WANTED AND NEEDED THE COMPANIES AND HOPED FOR AN EXPANSION OF THE INDUSTRY.
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